

Bellefontaine Cemetery, Wainwright Tomb  
4947 West Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis (independent city)  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1637-A

HABS

MO,

96-SALV,

84A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Addendum to:  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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BELLEFONTAINE CEMETERY, WAINWRIGHT TOMB

Location: 4947 West Florissant Avenue, St. Louis (independent city),  
Missouri

Significance: The Wainwright Tomb is a notable example of the work of  
architect Louis Sullivan.

Description: Square in form and surmounted by a hemispherical dome, the  
Wainwright tomb gives an impression of carefully controlled  
formal geometry. The ornate bandings of foliate carving  
accentuate but also soften the solemn planes of the  
building. The tomb is made of concrete and faced with  
limestone. A set of three steps that run the width of the  
tomb are flanked by seats which are perpendicular to the  
main body of the building. Double entrance doors formed of  
bronze grilles are centered in the main facade. The  
windows on the other elevations are also bronze grilles.  
The interior has cast bronze doors, a mosaic floor, marble  
walls, and a blue mosaic ceiling.

History: Completed in 1892, the tomb memorializes Charlotte Dickson  
Wainwright (d. 1891) and her husband Ellis Wainwright (d.  
1924). E. Wainwright, a wealthy brewer, commissioned Louis  
Sullivan (1856-1924) to design the structure after having  
commissioned him to design the Wainwright Building, an  
important early skyscraper in St. Louis.

Bellefontaine Cemetery covers 333.5 acres between Broadway  
and West Florissant Avenues, and Morin and Calvary Avenues.

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4947 West Florissant Avenue  
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